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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 MCT-01 /070 W
----------060001 181631Z /45
O 181505Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0764
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINS, RO
SUBJECT: ANTI-CEAUSESCU PROTEST BY HUNGARIANS AT WALDORF

SUMMARY: UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE AT WALDORF HOTEL OF 1500-2000 HUNGARIANS PROTESTING PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU VISIT WENT UNCHECKED FOR APPROXIMATELY HOUR AND HALF SUNDAY NIGHT, APRIL 16, FROM 8:00 PM TO 9:30 PM. PRESIDENT WAS OUT OF HOTEL AT THE TIME. WHEN POLICE BROUGHT DEMONSTRATION UNDER CONTROL AND DESPITE ASSURANCES OF COMPLETE SAFETY, PRESIDENT REFUSED RETURN TO HOTEL DEMANDING REMOVAL OF DEMONSTRATORS. FOLLOWING REPEATED ASSURANCES FROM AMB LEONARD (USUN), NEW YORK CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER AND SECRET SERVICE, PRESIDENT AGREED AND WAS RETURNED SAFELY TO WALDORF AT 12:30 AM, APRIL 17. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU CHECKED INTO WALDORF TOWERS AT APPROXIMATELY 6:30 PM, APRIL 16, 1978. HE LEFT HOTEL AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 PM AND MADE UNSCHEDULED VISIT TO NEW QUARTERS OF ROMANIAN MISSION, 38TH ST AND 3RD AVE. AT TIME OF DEPARTURE FROM WALDORF, A SMALL GROUP OF ROMANIAN EMIGRES HAD GATHERED AT HOTEL AND WERE CONTAINED BY A SMALL GROUP OF NEW YORK CITY POLICE. AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 PM,
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WHILE PRESIDENT WAS STILL AT ROMANIAN MISSION, A GROUP OF SOME 1500-2000 HUNGARIAN DEMONSTRATORS ARRIVED OUTSIDE WALDORF TO PROTEST TREATMENT OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN ROMANIA. THEY ARRIVED IN BUSES AND GAVE APPEARANCE OF A WELL ORGANIZED GROUP EQUIPPED WITH PRINTED SIGNS AND BULL HORNS. POLICE WERE OBVIOUSLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE AND HAD NO CONTINGENCY FORCE STANDING BY. PARTLY BECAUSE IT WAS

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SUNDAY NIGHT, IT TOOK UNTIL 9:30 PM TO CALL UP APPROXIMATE-
LY 110 POLICE NEEDED TO CONTAIN DEMONSTRATORS. DURING THE
8:00 PM TO 9:30 PM PERIOD, DEMONSTRATORS ENCIRCLED ENTIRE
BLOCK AROUND WALDORF AND SITUATION WAS NOTICEABLY OUT OF
HAND, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE. THERE WAS MUCH
NOISE.

2. WHEN WORD OF CONDITIONS AT WALDORF REACHED PRESIDENT'S
PARTY AT ROMANIAN MISSION, AMB NICOLAE NICOLAE NOTIFIED
DESK OFFICER SILINS AT DEPT THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NOT RETURN
TO WALDORF UNTIL DEMONSTRATORS WERE REMOVED. ROMANIANS
INSISTED CONDITIONS AT WALDORF MADE IT UNSAFE FOR PRESIDENT
TO RETURN. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED AT THIS POINT THAT,ACCORD-
ING TO SILINS, SOME TIME AROUND MID-AFTERNOON ROMANIANS
NOTIFIED DEPT, THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY, OF A BROADCAST IN
HUNGARIAN ON RADIO STATION WHBI-FM ASKING LISTENERS TO
SUPPORT A DEMONSTRATION AT 8:00 PM AT WALDORF TO PROTEST
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT. SILINS PASSED INFO TO SECRET
SERVICE IN WASHINGTON, DC. NEW YORK POLICE ADMIT INFO WAS
PASSED TO THEM LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON BUT EVALUATED IT AS
HAVING NO EFFECT ON THE USUAL SMALL NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS
ROMANIANS NORMALLY ATTRACT.)

3. DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM POLICE AND SECRET SERVICE, BE-
GINNING AT 9:30 PM THAT AMPLE POLICE HAD ARRIVED AT WALDORF
TO CONTROL DEMONSTRATORS AND THERE WAS NO DANGER TO PRESI-
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DENT CEAUSESCU, ROMANIANS WOULD NOT AGREE TO HIS RETURN,
INSISTING THAT DEMONSTRATORS BE REMOVED FROM AREA SO THAT
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU COULD NOT SEE OR HEAR THEM.

4. USUN FIRST RECEIVED WORD OF DEMONSTRATION AND RESULTANT
IMPASSE AT APPROXIMATELY 9:30 PM. AFTER OBTAINING
ASSESSMENT FROM POLICE AND SECRET SERVICE, AMB LEONARD
CONTACTED ROMANIAN AMBS NICOLAE AND DACTU AT ROMANIAN MIS-
SION TO ASSURE THEM OF ABILITY OF POLICE AND SECRET SERVICE
TO RETURN PRESIDENT SAFELY TO HIS RFSIDENCE. THESE ASSUR-
ANCES ALSO FAILED TO PERSUADE ROMANIANS WHO THREATENED IN-
STEAD TO GO DIRECTLY TO AIRPORT AND DEPART US WITHOUT
COMPLETING VISIT. COUNSELOR NIMITZ, ACTING SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER, AND DR. BRZEZINSKI, WHO HAD BEEN ALERTED TO
PROBLEM, ALL WERE IN TOUCH WITH CEAUSESCU'S PARTY. STALEMATE
PERSISTED FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF POLICE COMMISSIONER, CITY
OF NEW YORK, AT ROMANIAN MISSION AT APPROXIMATELY 10:45 PM,
DESPITE HIS PERSONAL GUARANTEE FOR PRESIDENT'S SAFE CONDUCT
AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMPANY HIM IN MOTORCADE. CON-
TINUING REASSURANCES BY AMB LEONARD, POLICE COMMISSIONER,
AND SECRET SERVICE, PLUS DWINDLING NUMBER OF
DEMONSTRATORS AT WALDORF DOWN TO HANDFUL ROAMING THE BLOCK,

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PRODUCED AGREEMENT AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 AM, APRIL 17, AND PRESIDENT ARRIVED BACK SAFELY AT HOTEL AT 12:30 AM. AS PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE ENTERED DRIVEWAY OF WALDORF, THREE EGGS WERE REPORTEDLY THROWN, ONE OF WHICH STRUCK PRESIDENT'S CAR. POLICE COMMISSIONER ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT TO HIS SUITE AND ASSURED ROMANIANS OF AMPLE POLICE PROTECTION THROUGHOUT NIGHT.

5. MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, AT APPROXIMATELY TEN O'CLOCK, NEW YORK MAYOR KOCH AND POLICE COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE, ALONG WITH DEPUTY ASST SECY WILLIAM LUERS AND US AMB AGGREY,MET WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AT HIS SUITE AT WALDORF. ACCORD-ING TO AMB AGGREY, MAYOR AND POLICE COMMISSIONER EXPLAINED

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 MCT-01 /070 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0765
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU NEED TO PERMIT DEMONSTRATIONS UNDER US LAWS BUT PROMISED THERE WOULD BE AMPLE POLICE TO CONTROL ANY FUTURE DEMONSTRATORS. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER DEMONSTRATIONS, EXPLAINING THAT EGG WHICH STRUCK HIS CAR COULD HAVE BEEN BOMB. ASST SECY LUERS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF NOT ALLOWING INCIDENT TO MAR VERY SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND OTHER US CITIES. ACCORDING TO AMB AGGREY, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU SAID HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. PRESIDENT INFORMED MAYOR KOCH HE WAS MISINFORMED ON CONDITIONS OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN ROMANIA AND INVITED HIM THERE TO WIT-NESS CONDITIONS FIRST HAND.

6. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AMB AGGREY, ASST SECY LUERS AND POLICE COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE MET WITH VASILI PUNGAN, CHIEF COUNSELOR OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, AND

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DISCUSSED WITH HIM SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR REMAINDER OF VISIT. PUNGAN WAS REASSURED THAT ALL NECESSARY SECURITY REINFORCEMENTS WERE IN FORCE AND HEAVY SECURITY WOULD BE IN EFFECT ENROUTE TO AND AT AIRPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE. POLICE COMMISSIOER ALSO AGREED TO PUNGAN'S REQUEST TO MOVE THREE DEMONSTRATORS OUTSIDE WALDORF FROM 48TH ST AND PARK AVE TO 5LST AND PARK WHERE THEY CANNOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEN FROM PRESIDENT'S SUITE.

7. POLICE COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE IS MAINTAINING FORCE OF 50 UNIFORMED POLICEMEN AT WALDORF PLUS NUMEROUS PLAINCLOTHES DETECTIVES TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR REMAINDER OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEUDLE CONSISTING OF A RECEPTION FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON AT WALDORF AFTERNOON APRIL 17. PRESIDENT DEPARTS WALDORF AT 6:00 PM FOR 7:15 PM FLIGHT FROM JFK AIRPORT. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, OVIP, RO, HU, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
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